

BINGA

NO
92

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE



Edited by REG BRISTOL

JUNE
1999

FRANK MURPHY

Died 22nd May 1989



He whole of organised Crosbyana, as well as countless other friends and relations were stunned at the news of the passing of FRANK MURPHY in May last. Certainly Frank had suffered heart attacks in the past couple of years but such was his ebullience and enthusiasm that few doubted he had proved himself a survivor and was learning to live with new restrictions. In our world of Bing we are, alas, innured to an extent at the almost regular passing of our stalwarts simply because Bing and his ardent admirers come from what must be considered a past age and are, therefore, far from the first flush of youth. Even so, to learn that Frank was only 58 was a further shock that made his death that more grievous.

Frank was a somewhat mercurial personality, often setting off at tangents to what his colleagues anticipated! For example, it is true to say that he was the founder (and gave it its name) of THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE; it was in the mid-60s that he virtually hi-jacked the British Crosby Society to found the ICC. And it has of course persisted to this day. Frank, however, had no sooner made this fait accompli than he found his young family and his job as a cinema manager too demanding for his Bing activities and he handed over to yours truly. As a temporary measure - 20 years ago!

Frank was an exceptionally genial personality, his Irish ancestry apparent in his attractive speaking voice. Indeed, among his many activities was local radio and hospital broadcasting, presenting programmes the content of which you can easily imagine. He was always bursting with Crosby ideas and enterprises - key-rings, photos by the hundred, peel-off Bing commemorative stamps - not a few homes are today decorated with a TWELVE MONTHS OF BING calendar, one of Frank's latest ideas, something he brought to fruition after it had been toyed with for so long.

Frank met Bing many times and one can understand their common ancestry made a special bond. And when Frank's family duties allowed he came back into action with his popular Colour Photo Club as so many know.

Frank's decease is a tremendous loss to us all.

Frank will be well remembered by the Crosby buffs as a kind and friendly personality and a great advocate for Bing. Our hearts go out to Alma, his wife, for whom life can never be the same again.

COLIN PUGH (Bristol)

It was saddening to read of Frank Murphy's death. I really liked him though I'd never met the man. The tone of his newsletters and the enthusiasm he had for Bing, his good-natured joking ways will be greatly missed by all of us, I am sure.

SHALDON O'CONNELL (Hawaii)

Just two examples of many letters on this sad event.

AND, GRIEVOUSLY, THE END OF — ANOTHER ROAD —



WITH a crushing sense of disappointment, frustration and downright desolation I have to tell members that this will be the last issue of BING that I, your long-serving Editor / Secretary, REG BRISTO, will produce.

No doubt, at the age of 73 this had to be an imminent possibility but mid-way thro' this issue I was struck a severe blow as regards my health which meant that my withdrawal from the active scene was imperative. Coupled with my wife's eyesight problems you can imagine we were put in a fairly desperate plight.

The immediate effect of the onset of the trouble was to put me in hospital for a month; my condition was alleviated but not cured. In fact, my condition has to be controlled and lived with for, as far as can be seen, the rest of my days.

I then became the victim of my own dedication and regularity, for naturally, letters asking WHERE IS MY COPY OF BING? came rolling in. This added to my stress for I was in no position to answer letters or issue an explanation. Letters were sent to as many as possible in the hope that the bad news would be passed around.

The next issue of BING, therefore, will reach you in due course - and be patient - from a new source, yet to be finally decided. Meanwhile, where subscriptions are due they should be sent - and please don't delay - to: MICHAEL CRAMPTON, 19 Carrholm Crescent, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, W. Yorks, LS7 2NL. Cheques/PDS payable to M. CRAMPTON. Compliance is necessary to ensure the continuation of BING at this critical time.

It remains for me to thank so many members for their enthusiasm and loyalty over so many years. I am not deserting the scene entirely for I hope to provide a feature such as DISCROSBY for future issues. I cannot, however, now undertake the heavy manhandling of vast quantities of paper for its eventual trip to the post office and thence to members.

Please send your Bing letters, articles, requests, memories, cuttings to Michael Crampton, address as above.

We still have so much to say about Bing and his wondrous career !

EDITORIAL



and there arose the great sound of wailing and gnashing of teeth as the tidings spread across the land.....

The tidings, of course, were to the effect that Alan Dell's much revered Sunday afternoon radio programme, SOUNDS EASY, was coming off the air. A few intrepid listeners even bewailed the demise of the Benny Green programme. Compassionate souls...

But have no fear! Alan Dell still has two more programmes running - THE DANCE BAND DAYS and THE 3 BAND SOUND so his fans can remain happy. And it is quite certain the all-knowing BG will not disappear entirely.

So far as we can ascertain most projects including radio programmes have a beginning, a middle, and an end. The only exceptions to this entirely sensible arrangement are CORONATION STREET on TV, and THE ARCHERS on radio. Both certainly had a beginning but appear scheduled to run for eternity. The BBC defends its attitude by stating, in reply to many letters, that they try to avoid sameness in programmes, and always rest presenters in order to introduce new ones.

One prominent Grosbyite who shall remain nameless even wrote to his MP about the Dell omission - and got a reply. In all honesty we have to say we regard this as crass. Looking around us we feel our legislators have much more serious business on their minds than the dropping of a radio programme.

The big loss because of the dropping of SOUNDS EASY was that, because of LESLIE GAYLOR'S special relationship with Dell, the listeners got a chance to hear for certain the popular singer who still continues to dwarf the rest. We of course had the material, but non-members of this Circle got a salutary reminder of that fact - Bing reigning supreme.. That beautifully rich, versatile, COMFORTING, voice will be with us always.

BEST WISHES TO ALL MEMBERS:

RAG BRISTOL

HALCYON DAYS

WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG



THE heading is designed to complement the contents of the following two pages. We discarded alternatives such as THE GOOD OLD DAYS and THOSE WERE THE DAYS. These things mean so many different things to so many varying people. For example, we understand there are men - and women - of around fifty years of age who now and then don their "Teddy Boy" outfits of the 40s and 50s, and with sideburns down to their elbows, celebrate their GOOD OLD DAYS!

Another reason is that when one talks of THE GOOD OLD DAYS one is almost immediately written off as an old fogie whose opinions - and memories! - are of interest only to themselves. But, there is one big difference in our case: Bing's halcyon days lasted authentically, undeniably, over no less than six decades, a quite unrivalled career in talent, scope and popularity.

Another point many will hasten to point out is that THE GOOD OLD DAYS seldom were that except, possibly, in one or two aspects. Certainly the decade of the 30s, the one with which we (and the following pages) are concerned, was nothing to write home about. Despite the savage losses of the 1914-18 first World War, millions were still out of work as the world struggled to pay for the holocaust of 1914-18. We're still trying to pay, incidentally, with the added enormous burden of the 1939-45 re-run.

And all through the 30s the clouds gathered in ominous fashion; the almost unbelievable truth was beginning to dawn on everyone that there was a man who was prepared to replay world war. Not only that, he had somehow convinced a powerful nation that this was the course he wanted! And it duly came to pass as no one needs telling or reminding. It led to the "Great Divide" - before the War - and after the War! And what a divide it has proved to be

Its fortunate that we are not conducting a social/moral survey in such a journal as this, especially when the current scene is contemplated embracing as it does child abuse, muggings, rapes, general crime, football hooliganism etc. etc. All backed up, sadly, with hard statistics, not opinions of old fogies. While it is said that statistics can be used to prove anything, we don't always find too much credence for that point of view. And no mention has been made of AIDS, drugs &c. Much is frequently made of the pressures of living in today's world. Such pressures undoubtedly exist; as a minor (perhaps) example the two leading TV serials are for ever seemingly propagating and encouraging marriage without the benefit of a ceremony of any kind.

What is really disconcerting, if not downright painful, is to be often assured that "we were the same when we were young!"

Yet we regularly attended football league matches for 20 years or more, starting in the late 20s, and never saw a riot. Nor did we see the crowd running onto the pitch - it was hallowed turf! There were no drink-inspired (or otherwise) disasters - and that was at a time when crowds of 60,000 were commonplace, and not a spectacular event as they are today.

NEW YORK Times Square **Paramount** Starts **TODAY**

Thousands Wrote, Phoned, Demanded the Return of Broadway's Greatest Stage Show!

George Jessel's "JOY JAMBOREE" with

★ **GEORGE JESSEL**

★ **BING CROSBY**

★ **BURNS & ALLEN**

★ **LILLIAN ROTH**

★ **RUBINOFF**

MR. & MRS.

★ **JESSE CRAWFORD**

★ **TRAINOR BROS.**

★ **BINES DANCERS**

Same incomparable cast of stars that rocked B'way with riotous laughter!



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On the Stage at
NEW YORK

Smart, Sophisticated, Wiscracking

LILYAN TASHMAN
IN PERSON!

• EVA RUBINOFF and ORCHESTRA • **PUCK & WHITE** • SAMMY • MR. & MRS. JESSE CRAWFORD

THE DANNY BARE PRECISION DANCERS

BING CROSBY

Singing "Mean Thing To Do" & "Blue Of The Night"



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The 1934 PARADE OF THE STARS

**BING
CROSBY**

**AMBROSE
& his
ORCHESTRA**

**CASA
LOMA
ORCHESTRA**

**DUKE
ELLINGTON
& his
ORCHESTRA**

**RUTH
ETTING**

**MAE
WEST**

**GUS
ARNHEIM**

**THE
BOSWELL
SISTERS**

**THE
THREE
KEYS**

THE new year promises to be brighter and better—and certainly Brunswick are doing their share to cheer things up! Once again the unparalleled Brunswick stars parade their latest gems of rhythm and harmony rising to greater triumphs than ever before. There is sufficient joy in the Brunswick January list to chase away a whole year's 'blues'—so make it your 1934 resolution to "follow the stars on Brunswick."

BING CROSBY

THE LAST ROUND-UP—Home on the Range 01608
SHADOW WALTZ—I've got to sing a Torch Song 01615
(both from 'Gold Diggers of 1933')

AMBROSE AND HIS ORCHESTRA

LA-DI-DA-DI-DA—I'm hitching my wagon to you 01655
(both from 'That's a pretty thing')
MY SONG GOES ROUND THE WORLD—
Symphony of the Breeze 01655

GUS ARNHEIM AND HIS ORCHESTRA

I'M NO ANGEL—I want you, I need you 01637
(both from 'I'm no Angel')

MAE WEST

I'M NO ANGEL—I found a new way to go to Town 01635
I WANT YOU, I NEED YOU—
They call me Sister Honky Tonk 01636
(all from her latest film 'I'm no Angel')

RUTH ETTING

YOU'RE MY PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE—
(from 'Broadway thru a Keyhole') 01634
Everything I have is yours, (from 'Dancing Lady')

THE BOSWELL SISTERS

(With The Dorsey Brothers' Orchestra)
LOUISIANA HAYRIDE (from 'Please') 01625

MARY LOU WILLIAMS

Night Life (Pianoforte Solo) 01625

on

Brunswick
RECORDS

(Cont from p.5)

It so happened that we travelled to these matches usually by train, which was a cheerfully place, full of excited chatter both before and after the match. Fans of the two teams never had to be kept separate - and I never saw a seat slashed, light bulbs smashed or toilets wrecked. Police didn't need to accompany the trains.

A short distance from where I am writing is a school, a splendid open modern school, full of windows and surrounded by a fine playing field of grass - a far cry from the concrete playground and grey-barrack-like building so many children of the 30s attended. Yet this school has twice in the past 18 months been vandalised. Computers, videos, TV's have been smashed - NOT STOLEN - and walls covered in paint and graffiti of an offensive nature. As burglary was not the motive it is pure mindless love of destruction. No doubt most readers are familiar with it.

All this would seem to suggest that in the 30s we were a bunch of Holy Joes! Not so, far from it - it was the generation that, like it or not, had to fight World War II. And we had plenty of peccadilloes tho' in most cases they stopped well short of the criminal.

So, having established ourselves as a sanctimonious sermoniser (?) let's return to our favourite subject - and his halcyon days which began with the 30s.

By common consent the 30s is now freely recognised as a true golden decade. The reasons are many. Radio was burgeoning and offering a brilliant new avenue to fame for artists with talent - for musical items mainly, of course. Visual artists such as dancers, jugglers and ventriloquists were non-starters, although startlingly a ventriloquist DID make radio fame - Edgar Bergen and his dummy Charlie McCarthy. In Britain there was another such act, the name of which eludes me for the moment.

Success on the radio meant that the public wanted to have records of their favourite performers, hence the record industry boomed also.

Thirdly, the block-buster of films - the musical films being especially prominent. With Bing at the top of the tree in all the media - radio, records, films - there were also such as Astaire and Rogers, Judy Garland, Alice Faye, Dick Powell and others. On the dramatic side there were such legendary personalities as Spencer Tracy, Clark Gable, James Cagney, Edward G. Robinson, Robert Taylor, Robert Young, Franchot Tone, Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis who, like many others, is still acting today. Truly a legend-making decade, the 'Thirties.

Then here was the exciting big-band scene, adding considerably to the lustre of the 30s. Names like Goodman, Shaw, Ellington, Armstrong did more than play the tunes of the day. They were complete entertainment units.

And as if to further illustrate the astonishing way everything seemed to come together in that decade of the 1930s consider the songwriters who provided a seemingly never-ending cascade of great songs - so many of which have become 'standards', i.e. they are liable to turn up in any singer's repertoire or any orchestra's programme this day in the late 1980s.

Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and Jerome Kern perhaps led the way but there were others. There were Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger, Mack Gordon and Harry Revel who provided unforgettable songs for Bing. Johnny Burke, Jimmy Van Heusen should never be overlooked either.



M

uch overdue we can return to page 5 and HALCYON. S. Honestly, we meant only a few introductory remarks to grace the contents of pages 6 and 7 and certainly had no idea it would run to such an inordinately lengthy spiel! Your indulgence is sought, and here we go again. Bing's career had begun (as a professional) with his modest little act with Al Rinker around a music-hall circuit with quiet success. He gravitated to greater things and no doubt larger audiences once the great Paul Whiteman had spotted the duo. He then disported himself at the famed Coconut Grove with Gus Arnheim - as we have heard on very rare air-shots. So Bing was well accustomed to stage work, but the prestigious engagement at the illustrious Paramount in Times Square must have been a tremendous milestone in his career. It was then, one might say, the ball really started moving for Bing.

This was the engagement, held over for no less than ten weeks, when Bing found he was quite "the gabby fella". In other words, he found himself to be never at a loss for words introducing other acts and lacing his own performances. No mean feat in such high quality company at such a famous venue.

You will note the date - 8th April 1932. Bing had made his first sensational coast-to-coast broadcast as a soloist just seven months earlier. Once again, Bing was no stranger to radio but his efforts up until then had been on what might be termed local radio. It was this countrywide broadcast series that led to Bing's appearance on Times Square, and for Paramount to sign him up for THE BIG BROADCAST, scheduled to be made later in 1932 after this stage engagement.

Although not particularly known on this side of the Atlantic, Jessel was a considerable personality in the American stage scene. Burns and Allen are readily remembered. The zany Gracie Allen passed away many years ago but George Burns, incredibly, is still performing today. They were, of course, to appear with Bing in THE BIG BROADCAST and in later years George was often a guest on Bing's various radio shows.

The other names have been lost in the mists of times, at least, to us in Britain, except of course of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Crawford the celebrated theatre-organists. Mrs. was HELEN CRAWFORD who in December 1931 accompanied Bing on two recordings, CAN'T WE TALK IT OVER? and I FOUND YOU. The latter was, and is, a very elusive record.

For those too young to know, cinema organs and their exponents were a very important feature of the popular music scene in the 30s especially. True, some detested them, but by and large they were very popular indeed. The brilliantly-lit console would rise from the darkness of the pit to the glare of spotlights and one witnessed not only a very musical performance, but a very dexterous one as well. Some of the really monster instruments had perhaps 5 manuals (keyboards) as well as the bass foot-pedals. It must have been a strenuous activity! "The Mighty Wurlitzer" was the common description and they certainly produced mighty sounds. As with the dance bands, Britain had its own array of brilliant theatre-organists, headed perhaps by Mr. Blackpool, Reginald Dixon, and with

such skilled performers as more Reginalds (odd how so many organists had that forename!) NEW, FOORT, PORTER-BROWN, and others such as Robinson Cleaver, Bobby Pagan, Quentin McLean, Patmore, and others.

At the bottom of the same page is an advertisement for an even earlier show, featuring Lilyan Tashman. This name means nothing to us but sounds like a 'silent' film star.

Note that Bing is advertised to sing WAS THAT THE HUMAN THING TO DO? and BLUE OF THE NIGHT. There is no commercial recording of the first-named, a very popular song of 1931, and as far as can be ascertained, no note of Bing singing it on radio. Pity. A song tailor-made for Bing's rich tones.

Not the least staggering aspect of the way things seemed to come together for the 'Thirties is the fact that sound films - "talkies" were only born in 1929 with the Jolson film. This was followed shortly afterwards by the Paul Whiteman pioneering band film, KING OF JAZZ. And of course Bing was in this. When BIG BROADCAST was made in 1932 sound films were still a bare three years old. Quite amazing.

Proceeding to the next page you see the kind of leaflet which could be picked up in any record shop or seen in magazines and newspapers of that wondrous year 1934.

1934

The year Bing started his recording career with Decca for no less than twenty years, the first two songs being I LOVE YOU TRULY and JUST A'WAILING FOR YOU.... they followed thick and fast for the next score of years. In 1934 Bing's films were HERE IS MY HEART, WE'RE NOT DRESSING, and SHE LOVES ME NOT - complete with splendid score of songs.

Bing was already the world's favourite family star - not appealing to just one section of the population as so many other stars have done. Women loved him, men admired him - all loved that rich, resonant voice with its innovative phrasing and uninhibited expression, singing great songs in a great style we had not heard before. More than that, his films were showing Bing to be the nice, pleasant, easy-going chap we had all imagined him to be from his singing.

The leaflet shows just what a lot of stars Brunswick had on their list - altho' now Decca, here in Britain the records continued to be issued on the time-honoured black/gold label with which we were all to become so familiar. And mostly they substantiate what was said above concerning radio stars becoming recording artists - with Bing of course, top of the tree.

There is one curiosity here - two in fact. There is an odd-man-out which many will have spotted. All the artists are American - except AMBROSE the famous British bandleader. The second oddity is that the songs announced as released for Bing are THE LAST ROUND-UP and HOME ON THE RANGE, both of which were actually recorded in 1933 and not '34. However, they were still

in Decca's catalogue more than 20 years later for such was the demand they were continuing to be re-pressed, almost annually. This is a facet peculiar to Bing's recordings and invariably overlooked. It must have been unique - in the 'popular' field at least.

The songs Bing did record in 1934 included LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR, MAY I, SHE REMINDS ME OF YOU, STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER, LOVE IN BLOOM, JUNE IN JANUARY.....what a collection, enjoyed to this day.

This writer particularly remembers THE LAST ROUND-UP. It was a real blockbuster of a hit here; all the bands were playing it, the singers singing it. This was long before Bing's recording reached here. One could hear: "I'd likd to hear 'ol Bing sing it!" Finally, of course, we did and we were not disappointed. Still sounds as good today; an added bonus that it was coupled with that beautiful first version of HOME ON THE RANGE.

It was, in fact, after first hearing THE LAST ROUND-UP that I found myself thinking: How can you call a man singing like that a crooner?

We've picked on 1934 merely because it fitted in with the vintage leaflet we were able to reproduce. It does not indicate that 1934 was particularly unique for the years of the Crosby career rolled on and on. Indeed, the statistics show that the 1940s was an even more prolific recording decade producing (alleged) million-sellers. We say alleged simply because, as has been said here before, no one really knows just how many millions of records Bing sold.

And while it is easily conceded that the demand for Crosby recordings began to fall away in the late 50s - surely an extraordinary time in any case - and there was no clamour to get the new ones (except by the dedicated!) demand never disappeared. Indeed, there were several periods of renaissance - at the time of HIGH SOCIETY film for example, and certainly when Bing at last came to Britain to sing for his admirers.

When it is realised that every generation, every decade, needs its own heroes Bing's career, passing thro' six decades was phenomenal. Other singers came and usually went after a brief period of prominence. Some stayed longer than others, of course, but throughout it was recognised that the Crosby voice ruled - and remained - supreme. The whole world was a Crosby fan club!

STAN WHITE, 57 Stanley St., Rothwell, Kettering, Northants NN14 2EA wants to do something about the gap left by the untimely death of Frank Murphy; he also seems to think I may be about to kick the bucket (he may well be right!) for he writes: At some point in the near future I will introduce a newsletter to be published on a regular basis just called CROSBY. This will largely be based on extracts from readers' letters. Once underway, they will send in an SAE (normal 8 x 4") each time for the next edition along with payment which will vary slightly according to the number of pages. This will enable Crosby folk to keep in contact in a friendly way. At this point if people wish to send an SAE - then they can pay for the first newsletter when it arrives.

Editor: Excellent idea - back-up for BING, perhaps



"LEEDS" COMING UP!

TWENTY-FOURTH CONSECUTIVE ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING

Last year, it will be recalled, a postal strike seriously disrupted the Leeds get-together. Indeed, the strike came close to sabotaging it altogether; happily, the faithful kept in touch with Michael Crampton.

We are late in every other direction with this issue but fortunately in plenty of time to announce this year's event. As always, the venue is THE MANSION, ROUNDHAY PARK, LEEDS and the date:

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 1989

From 3pm to 10pm

Tickets £10.00 from MICHAEL CRAMPTON, 19 Carrholm Crescent, Chapel Allerton, LEEDS, West Yorkshire, LS7 2NL Telephone : 0532 - 689556

The affair will consist of the usual format of films, quizzes, records - and chat!

Menu:

Chef's Homemade Soup Selection

Roast loin of pork with Honey Glazed Apple filled with seasoning. Chef's selection of Seasonal vegetables and Potatoes.

Lemon Syllabub

Cheeseboard Selection and Celery

Coffee with cream and Wafer Mints.

Those requiring overnight accommodation should contact ASHMOUNT HOTEL, Wetherby Road, Leeds, W. Yorks, 8. Tel: 0532 - 654263 which has the best rates.

A piquant factor this year is that members of the Crosby family have shewn an interest and a desire to attend if possible. In particular BOB CROSBY is said to be keen. It has been pointed out to Bob that our efforts, though genuine and sincere to the memory of Bing, do not in any way rival the conventions held in America for various people. These include an exorbitant subscription for a flimsy newsletter, urging the sale of T-shirts, badges and other trivial items. In other words, they are purely commercial projects.

There is an atmosphere about the Leeds gatherings hard to define, except that it seems to exemplify all that Bing was - friendly, appreciative and jolly good company!

Michael Crampton, therefore, needs only next year to complete a full quarter-century of annual Bing-effort, a truly meritorious effort towards Crosbyana.

Those attending are assured of an excellent meal and a good time with kindred spirits.

Incidentally, guests are invited to bring along records, tapes, books, etc. etc. for sale during the proceedings. This proves most useful.

LESLIE GAYLOR

Writes



IN the March issue of BING (if you can remember that far back!) I read with interest the article by my long-time associate and top Bing enthusiast, FRED REYNOLDS entitled POP-BENNY.

Since I entirely agree 100 per cent with Fred's views relating to one Benny Green I also wrote to the broadcaster to let him know one of our members had played him so successfully, just by sheer perfect use and knowledge of the English language alone.



Another of my long-standing friends in Crosbyana, namely STAN WHITE of Kettering, however, expresses that despite Green's brand of sarcasm and 'inane comment' as many of our members diagnosed them, Benny Green does play Bing which can't be a bad thing, considers Stan.

I was also amused by Fred's statement that radio and TV personalities wouldn't be on his writing list in support of Bing and that when the time came to do so, the time for the men in white coats to turn up had arrived!

On reading this I was immediately reminded of a day at the Connaught Rooms in London when Bing invited me to have a drink with him - and then found he had only ninepence on him to pay! Bing declined my offer to pay but arranged for the waiter to pick up a cheque from him later on. We talked of the hectic and 'unbelievably busy days Bing had experienced earlier in his fabulous career and of how in later years things had somewhat slowed up for him. I remember so well Bing appeared quite philosophical about the situation and fully accepted the situation. Indeed, he didn't appear too concerned about it all.

But then later, talking of the radio, TV press and media in general Bing did consciously or unconsciously reveal to me that he had very human thoughts just like the rest of us, "You keep on with your work Leslie, and get your members to go on pitching for me!"

This seems a somewhat contrasting view to that of member Fred and one that seemingly deserves to be noted - and remembered.



As I Believe I did previously mention I had a discussion with Mr. Gordon Gray, boss of Memoir Records and had it partly tied up with him for Memoir to reissue the much-desired HOLIDAY IN EUROPE album which apparently many of our members do not possess.

As a result of numerous requests Alan Dell has featured tracks from this album on his BBC SOUNDS EASY programme. This in turn has resulted in many letters coming here from listeners OUTSIDE of our membership, and telephone calls, too, I might add, all wanting to know the number of the album and - "Where can it be obtained?"

A school classmate of the late Malcolm Lockyer, who directed the orchestra for the album, is one listener who would love to 'lay his hands' on a copy for example. Some readers may not know that Bing recorded this album in London for Decca in 1960 - it created quite a stir in professional

~~the first time~~ Bing had

professional circles for a lot of people obtained permission from Decca (and presumably Bing) to attend the session. One fascinated observer of the Master at work was Michael Holliday. The trade papers carried splendid accounts of the sessions.

It is obvious that if our members want more Crosby releases they need to support those albums that are issued though we do bear in mind that many of Bing's greatest admirers are now into the Senior Citizen category and thus do not find it easy to spend money on records out of their pension. And of course, we have the 'built-in' decreasing syndrome of long-time admirers passing away. A melancholy, but obviously very true, aspect. Bing's band of fans must therefore be getting less on many counts. (Editor: See letter which follows)



HIS leads me to mention that out of sheer enthusiasm I quietly sat down just before last Christmas and compiled 5 x 16 track concepts which I then submitted to Mr. John Howard, the international manager of Pickwick Records with a request that he might care to give consideration to releasing them in due course.

All my selections were well away from those that appear so regularly on reissues and, I am sure, would be of enormous interest to Bing admirers worldwide, especially as they would no doubt appear on compact disc as well as albums and cassettes.

To my delight Mr. Howard came back to say he was very pleased with my CHRISTMAS WITH BING compilation and, indeed, had actually already ordered the tapes from MCA in America. To complete Mr. Howard's satisfaction, our own STAN WHITE wrote some excellent sleeve/jacket notes which he readily accepted.

Dependent on the quality of the tapes received from MCA (those so far have proved to be of excellent quality) the CHRISTMAS WITH BING project will emerge as follows:

A sleigh bell serenade	Snow
Happy Holiday	I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Is Christmas only a tree?	Silent Night, Holy night (L3026 master)
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer.	A Crosby Christmas Part 1
Christmas is a coming	" " " Part 2
The first snowfall	That Christmas feeling
Looks like a cold, cold winter	Sleigh ride
Its a marshmallow world	Little Jack Frost got lost.

As regards the four other compilations on his desk from me we can only hope he will be able to give them his consideration. I understand Mr. Howard is in a position to license the whole Crosby catalogue from MCA as he may require.

That gentleman has not unnaturally tapped me about the measure of support his efforts would be likely to get from the Crosby clubs. I assured him there would be virtually 100 per cent support - but that the wider public had to be captured as well. He is very pleased indeed with the plugs BING SINGS THE GREAT SONGS and MORE GREAT SONGS have received over the air via Alan Dell on Radio 2. Stan White has also engineered plays from these releases as also has Gerry Didymus over Radio Solent (BBC). Future releases will, of course, depend on the success of these two issues. So far they do seem to have gone well.

My good friend and ICC member, ERNEST SUTKOWSKI of New Jersey, USA and ace Bing-booster if ever there was on, has already ordered 100 Compact Discs of

of CHRISTMAS WITH BING from the Record Centre in Birmingham. This order alone should ensure a fair kick-off for the set. Ernest actually supplies record presenters with these Crosby offerings and invariably gets a cordial response from them.



N 16th April last I received a telephone call from a lady who said she was calling on behalf of THE OLD CODGERS of The Daily Mirror 'Live Letters' column. For overseas members this feature is a sort of question and answer section of the newspaper which gets a wide circulation.

This lady said a reader had written in asking who possessed the largest Bing Crosby record collection in the world? The Old Codgers had checked the Guinness Book of Records, the lady went on, and the publishers had named the late BOB ROBERTS (of Chatham, Kent) as the one. Bob, a keen member of ICC and co-author of several compilations on Bing, sadly passed away in 1977. "We have been put on to you," she said, "as one who could almost certainly help us."

I explained that I couldn't be too helpful, although I was aware there were a number of prominent and extremely keen collectors in various countries, including Britain. I didn't know precisely what those collectors were in possession of or, indeed, whether they would want their names publicised so I had to explain that I couldn't be of much help.

She then said: "We believe you have a large collection of Crosby recordings" - to which I of course, agreed. "Right then," she said, "we'll put it down that there are numerous large collections held by admirers in Britain and that you are the owner of one such collection."

So, we settled it at that.

Over a period I've had several requests about the availability of the Bing with the Rhythm Boys air-shots on the album ARCADIA No. 5001. The songs are A BUNCH IN THE PARK and EVERYTHING'S AGREED UPON. They are in excellent quality. At the time of writing it is available from

RAY PURSLOW, THE RECORD CENTRE,
45-46 LOVEDAY ST. BIRMINGHAM B4 6NR

at a price of £7.99 plus £1 postage. Check first that it is still there.



singer new to the British scene is young JOE FRANCIS, which name cloaks the identity of the son of our powerful Stateside member ERNEST SUJKOWSKI - we have a job keeping his name out of things - not that we want to!

JOE FRANCIS has made an excellent album entitled EVERY STEP OF THE WAY on the RCA label. It was produced by Ken Barnes with musical arrangements by PATE MOORE. It will be available by the time this issue is with you. Tracks have already been featured by Alan Dell, David Jacobs on the national wavelengths, while again GERRY DILLIUS has played some over BBC's Radio Solent.



ing met Young Joe I wish him well in his career. Its good to see
someone in the business not having "pop-orientated" repertoire.
(See also T1 & EVENTS - Editor)

Like the rest of our members, I was stunned at the news that Alan Dell's highly popular Sunday afternoon radio programme was coming off - or being rested. The announcement came as a most unpleasant surprise for the programme included a spot for Bing every Sunday and our members, with me, had come to relish this oasis.

SOUNDS EASY has become much a part of Sunday afternoons for our members as well as the members of other societies. I happen to know that many of these organisations are making the strongest protests to the BBC and I would most earnestly ask our members to take up the cudgels on behalf of Alan Dell and Bing! Drop a line protesting at the axing of SOUNDS EASY and asking for it to be continued to:

Head of Radio 2,
BBC
Broadcasting House,
London, W1A 4WW

Best wishes to everyone.

Editor: HOLIDAY IN EUROPE is indeed an excellent candidate for reissue in any form. What I find a little surprising is that MEMOIR (about whose issue of NEW TRICKS we had quite a saga!) are not switching to Compact Discs, excellent as their LP pressings are. HOLIDAY IN EUROPE like so many Crosby albums such as DRIFTING AND DREAMING, IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN, RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS, TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL, HOME ON THE RANGE, WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING etc. etc. have never reappeared since original issue - unlike NEW TRICKS.

Leslie mentioned also the melancholy inevitability of dwindling Crosby fans on account of the grin repeater. Those who remember Bing from 1931 or even earlier are indeed a very dwindling breed. However, we have younger members who will, in due course, hand over the torch, so to speak. And there is certainly ground for confidence in the future when we receive letters such as this:

Dear Mr. Bristo,

8 Botfield Rd.,
Shifnal,
SHROPS. TF11 8AP

I am just writing to ask if it would be possible for you to send me details of the International Crosby Circle ("Bing" magazine)

I am 20 years old and I have just discovered the magic of Bing. My grandfather has quite a few Bing records, and the other week, while I was visiting, I thought I'd play one of the albums. Of course I knew of Bing and some of his records (WHITE CHRISTMAS, TRUE LOVE &c) but I, like many other people of my age, thought that Bing was old hat - music for the over-50s. But when I played one of the albums through - it was called THE BEST OF BING CROSBY on the MCA record label - I was in awe. The music is fantastic. It isn't "old-fashioned" songs at all, but exciting songs, songs of love, laughter and tears. As for Bing's voice - well! He



knows how to phrase a song and even makes wellknown numbers sound completely original.



Since my 'discovery' I have been buying as many of Bing's albums as possible. I am a person of the CD age and so I am buying the albums on CD (I got your address from the Pickwick CD BING CROSEY SINGS MORE GREAT SONGS). Are all Bing's albums - proper and compilations - available on CD. If not, do the record companies plan to release them in this format? I ask because it would be a shame not to have all Bing's recordings available on the best sound around.

Anyway, I hope that you will be able to send me the information that I have asked for. Best wishes with the Bing club.

Yours sincerely, JOHN TURNER.

Editor: A remarkable letter. We do have younger members but surely John has shewn a remarkable grasp of one of the major assets of Bing's singing - his phrasing. And how do you even begin to tell a young man of 20 about the incredibly unique career of Mr. Crosby when there are those among us who have been studying that career for upwards of 50 years and continue to learn more about it?

Will the companies issue all Bing's records on CD? Well we told young John there were around 2,300 commercial records to start with, then there are several hundred songs preserved and available from radio shows, including those from the 30s, incredible as it may seem, when they were recorded on 16" discs (which played from the inside to the out) right up to the '60s..... It is a daunting prospect for most, especially the old hands, who have been collecting Bing records on 78s, EPs, 45s, 10" LPs, then 12" LPs., cassettes - and now the prospect of replacing their enormous collections with Compact Discs! Daunting, it most certainly is. Yet there is no doubting the quality of the sound via this new medium.

A good start has been made, too. Bing's early career has already been well covered with the three discs of THE CROONER (what a misnomer!), OUT OF NOWHERE, and WHERE

THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT. And of course, John's discovery of THE BEST OF BING CROSEY is also on CD from MCA. We deal in TRACK EVENTS with the difficulty of keeping track of all Crosby CDs issued but estimate that there must now be more than a hundred.





THE degree of discernment dis-
concerning the attributes of
whether or not he knows it as
hobby, if not a passion, dest-
his life! Think of all the records, books, articles, films, magazine articles
over the years, thousands of them.....but to read BING is at least the first
paramount step.

played by JOHN TURNER in his letter
Mr. Crosby would seem to indicate -
yet - he has gained for himself a
ined to last him for the rest of

While agreeing with Les Gaylor that Bing issues need to be supported, and
certainly our good friends at Pickwick are a case in point, but we need to be
discerning here also for all kinds of Smart Alecs are issuing the stuff on LP
and cassette which has been reissued interminably by more reputable sources.

And it is noted that Leslie has received enquiries about the availability of
the Arcadia LP of the Rhythm Boys' air-shots, recently brought to light. We
hope these enquiries were from non-members for in issue No. 89 of BING (last
September) we gave full details of the album and from whence it could be
obtained, e.g.

Arcadia Records
760 Brower Street,
MEMPHIS, TN 3811,
U. S. A.

Price is 11.50 dollars, which we remarked was approx. £7.00 incl. airmail.
Dollar bills can be obtained from any bank, holiday firm, or Bureau du Change.
Record No. is Arcadia 5001.



THE death of HORTBART MILLS of the legendary Mills Brothers singing
quartet was announced earlier this year. He was born in Picqua, Ohio,
on 2nd April 1912 and died 12 April 1989. Unless we have lost track
this means that Donald is the only one of the celebrated family left. The
boys, of course, had a great kinship with Bing and their recordings of SHINE,
MY HONEY'S LOVIN' ARMS and DINAH are treasured items. The last-named, in
fact, was re-created by Bing and the Brothers in Bing's 50th Show Business
Anniversary show at Pasadena in 1976.

The Mills Brothers were the first coloured group to gain nationwide accept-
ance in America, and rightly so for their artistry was of a high standard
and always full of musical integrity. They had a recording career which
ran parallel with Bing's, it might be claimed. It goes without saying they
had a string of hits - UP A LAZY RIVER, PAPER DOLL, TILL THEN, PUT ANOTHER
CHAIR AT THE TABLE, YOU ALWAYS HURT THE ONE YOU LOVE and so many others.
In more recent years they had CAB DRIVER and GLOW-WORM. The Brothers
were unique in that their only accompaniment - at least in the first decade -
was a single guitar, and their vocal imitation of musical instruments
was quite uncanny to the extent that their records bore the legend that
no musical instrument other than the guitar was used on the recordings.

It was a little unfortunate that apart from the three tracks mentioned
above, made in the early 30s, Bing did not record with them again although
both remained on the Brunswick (Decca) label for so many years. They did,
however, appear many times on radio with Mr. C.

And now across the page its time for REYNOLDS NEWS, which little drollery
will be lost to those who do not recall the Sunday newspaper of that name,
long defunct.....

CRAP GAME

B4

FRED
REYNOLDS

ON two recent occasions I have been reminded of the old adage "Believe nothing that you read and only half of what you see" by the appearance of reports in different national daily newspapers. The first is a minor matter, raised here only to reassure concerned kith and kin, and can quickly be disposed of although, had I not had a doppelganger, it might have had serious personal consequences and devastated my friends - none of whom, I am unhappy to say, made any enquiries about my welfare. I attribute this to the fact that upon reading it they had all fainted or that they are aware of my natural resilience and knew that I would, like Donald O'Connor in ANYTHING GOES, bounce right back. The report read:

RAIL SAvER

Pensioner Fred Reynolds, 69, was taken to hospital by train after suffering head injuries when he fell down a 60ft embankment on to railway lines in Moseley, Birmingham.

This rather alarming news at first evoked the same feeling of risibility that Mark Twain and a few others experienced when they read their own obituaries but a sense of uneasiness followed when I read it a second time. Had it been an obituary I would have had reasonable grounds for believing it to be premature but this was something else. Pensioner? Well, yes. 69? Well it is the number of my house if not the number of my years. Birmingham? All my life. Head injuries? The truth was beginning to emerge: where could I have been since the traumatic event had rendered me an amnesiac and from which only now were the veils beginning to life? I will not urge upon you any more of the harrowing details: enough to say that after my dearly beloved, corroborated by several others, had convinced me that I hadn't been near Moseley I felt a little better.

The second report held more sinister overtones. It was the letter you see reproduced over the page. The heading of the report varied slightly, depending upon the way it was sub-edited. The reproduction shows BING CROSBY 'CHEATED SON' while in another paper it was BING PLAYED IT REAL MEAN. In the latter version, the report ended:

"...if the worse comes to the worse I can always involve him in a crap game and rifle him that way." - referring, of course, to the royalties."

Good grief!

Whatever the heading given to this report it is an invitation for it to be taken seriously and a good example of how our unbiased press presents its facts to a credulous public. I am not suggesting that Bing didn't write the quoted extract - after all, in 1950 I was further away from Hollywood than I was from Moseley - but would anyone of sound mind seriously announce, especially in writing, an intention to perpetrate a dastardly deed? Crosby will recognise in the of dialogue that afforded radio shows and instantly



Anyone knowing anything about the quoted extract that racy brand much of the entertainment in his appreciate the levity. I imagine

the reporter to be a young, humourless, up-to-his-hairline in "rock", gullible probationer without even the small talent of being able to grasp the obvious and who has probably never heard the million seller hit to which he refers. That is my imagination at its most charitable: I should not wish to think that it was by someone who has sunk to the occasion with a deliberately placed canard or piece of innuendo the like of which any politician might be proud. Nevertheless, an old French aphorism - in translation, "shame to him who evil thinks" - suggests that a little more "honi" and a lot less "mal y pense" would have been more gracious.

The truth of the matter is that all Gary's share of the proceeds was used on him and for his benefit and between fact and insinuation there is a gap of Grand Canyon dimensions. I am sure that rather than accept the view of a journalistic apprentice we all could find many other things much easier to believe; things such as the Stock Exchange having registered as a charitable organisation, the Bishop of Durham ever having taken Holy Orders and the Australian test cricket team arriving here on a goodwill mission.

We know from Gary's book, "GOING MY OWN WAY", which said much about its author, that as a seventeen-year-old he would have required a lot of protection from himself; in the letter his father was undoubtedly conveying, in his usual off-beat manner, his intention of carrying out his parental duty. If Gary couldn't be trusted with a ball-point pen how would he have handled a fortune? But a terrible thought now strikes me: what if Gary saw this report and makes it the nucleus of another biographical tome? No doubt he would call it "LITTLE BOY LOST PLANTY."

Fred Reynolds.

Editor: No doubt many members saw the report and letter in question for it was a syndicated item, e.g. a press agency got hold of it and circulated it to hundreds, if not thousands, of newspapers. And all sub-edited in some way with a different heading but the inevitable conclusion, Bing was indeed a skinflint! We put the matter in perspective as you can see. And as was so often the case, Bing in his book, CALL ME LUCKY, touched on the subject, for he wrote:

"Dixie and I were never very anxious to get our boys too deeply enmeshed in show business. Dixie insisted they get their education first, and it was with considerable trepidation that I asked Gary to make a record with me, as a kind of change of pace. What if the thing was a big hit? What if it catapulted Gary into the spotlight? What if it made him a bobby-sox favorite? How would we ever be able to control him if it did?

All these things are just what happened...I never dreamed it would hit with such impact...we recorded SAM'S SONG and PLAY A SIMPLE MELODY...After I heard the test pressings I said to Sam 'Get a barrel! Gary'll need one for the loot that'll be coming his way.' I was right. He needed one to pick up his royalties. It landed Gary on the cover of a national magazine...it caught on in the juke-boxes...."

What a pity it was that Gary never fulfilled the tremendous promise he displayed when working so early with his father.

He had every chance; how many thousands of young men would have jumped at the opportunities offered?

May 3, 1989



Bing Crosby ... not mean

Your View

Send your letters to
The Editor, Evening Herald,

80 Middle Abbey St., Dublin 1.

Truth about Bing Crosby

YOU recently published an item entitled "BING CROSBY 'CHEATED SON'" concerning a letter written by Bing in which he appeared to want to conceal the

amount of money involved in royalties from the record "PLAY A SIMPLE MELODY", which Bing made with his son Gary.

Unfortunately, you

placed the entirely inaccurate interpretation on this. The truth is, as Mr. Crosby often said and wrote, that he was very much concerned about his young family of sons on the "too much too soon" and the consequences on their young lives.

There was no question of concealing royalty details because he was a "skinflint".

On the contrary Mr. Crosby donated literally millions of dollars during his lifetime, on most occasions with the proviso that there was no publicity.

And Catholic charities, because of Mr. Crosby's faith, were particular beneficiaries.

REG BRISTO,
Hon. Sec.
The International
Crosby Circle.



Bing Crosby ... he was not a skinflint.

Generous to a fault

AN article appeared in your paper this month concerning Bing Crosby. He was portrayed as a miser to his family.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The great man was over-generous.

THOMAS MOONEY

Dublin 11.

Bing Crosby 'cheated son'



BING CROSBY
"Skinflint"

THE LATE Bing Crosby was a bit of a skinflint, even with his own son, reveals a letter due to be auctioned in New York tomorrow.

In the letter, written to songwriter Harry Ruby in 1950, Crosby mentioned his problem of concealing from his eldest son, Gary, the million dollar success of their duet disc, Play A Simple Melody.

"There's quite a bit of money involved from royalties and I am trying to get someone to slip this to me under the table," wrote the crooner.

ALTERNATE BING CROSBY



To all purchasers of my recently published book - ALTERNATE BING CROSBY - I regret to have to draw attention to a serious error that has occurred in one of the entries. I hasten to add that on my third and final proof reading, which I have in book form, this error DOES NOT APPEAR. It must, therefore, be assumed to be a printers' error

The entry to which I refer may be found on page 40 under the title FACE THE MUSIC MADDLY - PART 1 (Soft Lights and Sweet Music). Half-way down the page there are three notes numbered (1); (2); (3). Note (2) should read:-

"Micro re-issues stated as being Take A and Take B - identical to Take B".

Unfortunately, it will be seen that Note (3) has been repeated for Note (2) which, of course, makes absolute nonsense of this section of the entry.

Those not wishing to mutilate their book by writing in the correct information could insert a slip at this page on which they have typed or written the amendment.

I am in the process of checking every entry against my collection, the same as any other collector who purchases the book. This will bring to light any other errors there may be and in the event of such, critical to the meaning and sense of an entry, with the gracious consent and co-operation of the various editors of the Bing magazines around the world, I will report them and advise necessary amendment.

COLIN PUGH

Honourable No. 1 Daughter has long been employed by British Airways and over the years has brought me Crosby records from all over the world - Italy, Germany, France, Canada, America &c, but has always regretted never having got to Japan. Until recently! When I heard she was to visit Tokyo for a week I immediately asked her to bring back any CDs or LPs of Bing she could find. Seems it was on only the day before she flew back that she had time to visit a couple of record shops in the vicinity of the airport. Alas, she came back empty-handed, but the exercise wasn't without interest. At both shops ehwas told, in only slightly different fashion:

"Most sorry - all Bing Crosby CDs gone. New stock in maybe 3-4 days."

Startled daughter: "Bing Crosby - the American singer and film star?"

"Ah so. Mr. Crosby much very popular here. We sell his records very much quick!"

So, first-hand corroboration of what has seemed apparent for some time - that Bing is indeed popular in the land of Nippon despite what would seem to be vastly differing cultures.

Yet again, we've always maintained Bing's appeal was universal. Here's proof indeed!

TRADING POST



STAN BUCKLEY, 40 Meadow Lane, Alferton, Derbys. D45 7BZ has acquired for disposal, the comprehensive collection of late member Claude Bishop (Strelley). It comprises scores of LPs (10" and 12") 4Ps, 45s, 78s hooks, &c. SAE for lists please.

H. BATH, 8 Gorringe Close, Lower Willington, Eastbourne BN20 9SU has Nos 35 to 90 in mint condition of BING mag. Wants to exchange for Bing sheet music or photo-stats of same.

ALAN MCKAY, Flat 7, 21 St. Edwards Rd., Southsea, Hants, PO5 3DH wants BING - FRANCIS LANGHOTE Victor Herbert Songs on Brunswick 10" LP must be in good condition. Will pay good price,

PHIL CLARKE, 21 Stockheath Lane, Havant, Hants PO9 3BU has 60 Beta tapes mainly Crosby movies and TV items, songs only on some, plus a Beta machine £750 the lot, will not sell separately. Also super 8 sound projector with films and screen, Bing 'short' films pluustrailers for Big Bing films &c. Offers?

In the last two issues of BING the price of the set of Spokane records offered by Renee Chester was given as £28.32p. How this came about is a mystery; the correct price, incl. postage duty and Customs paid, is £35.75. Renee is at 53 Park Crescent, Eastwood, Nottingham, NG16.

Complete set of BING'S HOLLYWOOD LPs Wanted. Must be in very good condition - HARRY GLEDHILL, 20 Frederick Aven., Barnsley, S, Yorks S70 6JZ

NOSTALGIA on C90 Cassettes copen-reel all types American sweet and swing bands and vocalists of the 30s. SAE for a list of what is available; BERT DAY, 35 Galla Cres., Dalkeith, DG5 4JY (0556-611215)

DANNY O'SULLIVAN, 21 Pinfold Lane, Norton Canes, Cannock, Staffs WS11 3PH has Bing LPs and 78s for disposal. SAE for details please.

ARTHUR FLOOD, 597 Osmaston Rd., Derby, D42 8NE has produced some delightful peel-off Bing stamps £1.50 for 20 incl. postage. Aim is to raise money for John Marshall's VARIETY project. Most interesting adornment to letters &c.

IAN LAWRENCE, 11 Landseer Aven., Northfleet, Kent D11 8NN keenly wants a VHS video of Bing's March 1977 Pasadena concert. Would be most grateful if anyone can sell him a copy.

BRIAN JONES, 1 Gellihaf Rd., Fleur-de-Lis, Blackwood, Gwent, NP2 1RJ: £15.00 plus £1.00 postage offered for the American edition of CALL ME LUCKY. £2.00 offered for the British dust-cover of CALL ME LUCKY.

Entries here are free to members, with £1 nominal charge for Non-Crosby items,



BING CROSBY: "THE CROONER" CBS YEARS 1928-34 65 Historic Recordings on THREE COMPACT DISCS.

This America-only issue was dealt with here and your (retiring) Editor: REG BRISTO, 7 Greenmeadow Close, St. Dials, CWMBRAN, GWENT, NP44 4PJ has just one set of the 3 CDs for sale, still in its cellophane wrappings as received direct from America: First £25 (inclusive of postage and packing) secures - Phone Cwmbran 69968.

JACK SOUTHER, 2011-44th Avenue, San Francisco, CAL. 94116, USA: Have for disposal over 2000 Bing pressings (S) All sizes and speeds, including very rare 78s; picture jacket albums, original Chevron of THANKS, V-discs, albums incl. HIGH TOR, 16" transcriptions, books, sheet music etc. etc. Inquiries welcomed with International Reply Coupon.

 So we approach the end of what has turned out to be a milestone in Crosbyana - this issue is still dated June and certainly remains No. 92 but cannot reach you until mid-September at the earliest. It would have been even later but for the enthusiasm and dedication of MICHAEL CRAMPTON who made the near-500-mile round-trip Leeds-Cwmbran-Leeds to help out in the later stages. Everything was going as usual for June when catastrophe struck. If it is not, either, the kind of issue members have come to expect four times a year over the past 20 years. It does, however, put members in the picture and will at least now enlighten all those who have been bombarding the Editor with letters regarding BING'S non-appearance.

If the "X" appears in the box across the page, it is essential that annual subscriptions are sent in right away to Michael (see page 3)  This is a critical time for Crosbyana and the future of the Circle and its magazine. The person(s) taking over need the support of all members to ensure they can carry on the perpetuation of Bing's memory in the same style which has reigned since 1950.

SO DO NOT DELAY IF YOUR SUBS ARE DUE. THEY ARE NEEDED

And at this stage it is not possible to say precisely when the next issue will reach you so patience will have to be the key word. But reach you it will in due course.

Being only half its normal size, this issue does not alas contain so many popular items. TRACK EVENTS, for instance. In this connection the scene is certainly changing and thus revealing the writing on the wall!

In the past few months we have seen not one Crosby LP. BUT, Compact Discs have proliferated and we note that many who set their hearts against this new form have changed their minds. To their own good.

We might well ask, at this juncture, who it was that said Crosby recordings needed new, up-to-date, backings to sell? The producers of Compact Discs certainly do not share this point of view for Bing's early career has come in for special, prolific, treatment on CDs. And rightly so.

And now I wish my successors all the best for the future, as well as the general membership. As stated, I do not intend to disappear entirely but must, necessarily, take a back seat. Thanks for all the letters of appreciation and good wishes.

REG BRISTO.